

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 SAB-01 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 058939

R 051247Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7099

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0696

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ISRAELI ANNEXATION PLAN

REF: AMMAN 3712

1. I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT ANY PLAN EXISTS ALONG LINES OF KHATIB'S ALLEGATION. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ISRAELI NEWSPAPER ARTICLES KHATIB ALLUDED TO AND NEITHER, APPARENTLY, HAVE OUR LOCAL ARAB CONTACTS. DURING LAST FEW DAYS I HAVE TALKED WITH MAYORS OF RAMALLAH, BETHLEHEM, BEIT JALA AND BEIT SAHUR AND NONE MENTIONED ANY SUCH ISRAELI PLAN. I MENTIONED TO BETHLEHEM MAYOR THE REPORTED INTENTION OF ISRAELIS TO EXPROPRIATE LAND EASTWARD FROM BETHANY (JERUSALEM 927) AND HE SAID BETHLEHEM APPEARED NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY CURRENT ISRAELI PROJECT OF THIS KIND. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION, IN FACT, THAT ISRAELIS WERE PERMITTING BETHLEHEM RESIDENTS TO BEGIN BUILDING IN AN AREA WHICH HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSED OFF BY MILITARY GOVERNMENT SOME MONTHS AGO.

2. ACCORDING TO MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, CARADON ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM FROM AMMAN FULL OF THIS STORY AND TACKLED ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT IT. MFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED COMPLETE IGNORENCE, AND AGAIN ACCORDING TO BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL, LEFT CARADON FEELING SOMEWHAT FOOLISH.

3. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT STORY IS DISTORTION OF APPARENT ISRAELI PLAN TO ACQUIRE 70 SQUARE KILOMETER AREA BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND DEAD SEA (JERUSALEM 927). BEYOND THAT, WE ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN IT. FOR ISRAELIS TO ANNEX A MAJOR PORTION OF POPULATED AREAS OF WEST BANK WOULD SEEM SO CONTRADICTORY TO POLICIES LONG REFLECTED IN ALLON PLAN THAT ON THESE GROUNDS ALONE IDEA WOULD SEEM MOST IMPROBABLE. ARAB POPULATION OF THIS EXPANDED JERUSALEM WOULD OUTNUMBER JEWISH POPULATION. TO INCLUDE HEBRON WOULD INVOLVE INCLUSION IN JERUSALEM MOST OF JUDEA, WHICH SEEMS BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF THE CREDIBLE.
DAY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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